

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 428

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Gerhard G. Ruetz of
Jonesborough.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Gerhard G. Ruetz; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruetz was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rechlin, Germany, Gerhard G. Ruetz was the son of the late Kurt and Greta Ruetz; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Ruetz became a naturalized United States citizen; and

WHEREAS, Gerhard G. Ruetz sailed throughout the world as a merchant mariner and worked for several years at WJHL-TV and WSJK-TV as a broadcaster before initiating his brilliant teaching career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruetz garnered valuable education experience, serving as a teacher at Elizabethton High School from 1975 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, for the next seventeen years, Gerhard G. Ruetz served with acumen and alacrity as a broadcasting and journalism teacher at Dobyns-Bennett High School, in which

position he earned the respect of his students and colleagues alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Mr. Ruetz was honored with the Freedoms Foundation Award for the documentary *Jefferson and Monticello*, a Certificate of Merit from the Tennessee Historical Commission for the series *We the People*, and the Outstanding Trade and Industrial Teacher of the Year Award from the Tennessee Vocational Association; and

WHEREAS, active in the community, Gerhard G. Ruetz served as the President of the Washington County Young Republicans and as Chairman of the 15th Precinct (Outside); he was also a member of the Washington County Republican Executive Committee, the Tennessee Singing Republicans, and the Johnson City Centennial Singers and was active in the Johnson City Community Theater and the Jonesborough Repertory Theater; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruetz was an active and devout member of the Church of Christ, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Gerhard G. Ruetz was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruetz enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Juanita Potter Ruetz, and was the proud father of Damaris Ruetz Essig and Jon Ruetz; and

WHEREAS, Gerhard G. Ruetz will also be dearly and daily missed by his sisters, Ilse Kruger, Hannelore Wienbrandt, and Martina Ruetz, his brothers, Reiner Ruetz, Harald Legler, and Wolfgang Kruger, and his nephews, Oliver Kruger, Henning Ruetz, and Gerriet Ruetz; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruetz leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Gerhard G. Ruetz, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ruetz.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.